

Remarks

Claims 1-8 were pending in the Application. Claims 4 and 8 were indicated to be allowable. Claims 1-8 have been cancelled in favor of new claims 9-18.

As an initial matter, it is therefore believed that the outstanding rejections of claims 1-8 under 35 USC § 112 have been rendered moot.

New independent claim 9 is directed at an apparatus for separating double fed media in an imaging system. The claim is believed to have clarified the subject matter of cancelled claim 1 and now recites a first and second media feeding apparatus with first and second media sensors. An electronic data processing apparatus (EDPA) is provided to receive signals from said first and second sensors. The EDPA also compares the length of time that the presence of a first sheet of media is sensed by the first sensor to a predetermined time period. A clutch is provided that is in communication with the EDPA. The clutch controls the first media feeding apparatus, which clutch is capable of terminating and restarting feeding by the first media feeding apparatus.

The EDPA is responsive to said signal from said first media sensor. The EDPA is also configured to activate said clutch to terminate feeding. Feeding is terminated when the length of time that the presence of said first sheet of media that is sensed by said first sensor exceeds said predetermined time period. The EDPA is also configured to deactivate said clutch to restart feeding of media after media has been sensed by said second media sensor.

No new matter has been entered by said amendment. Support can be found, e.g., at page 4, line 6 through page 5, line 5 of the application. In addition, support can be found in the originally filed claims.

New independent claim 14 is comparable to claim 1, and recites the use of a motor in communication with the EDPA. This is believed to be fully supported by the specification, which recites at page 5, lines 6-10 that one may use "alternative selectable drives, such as separate motors...". Accordingly, no new matter has been entered in claim 14.

Dependent claims 10-13 scope independent claim 9 by reciting that the first sensor is configured to detect a leading edge and trailing edge of the media. Support can be found at page 3, lines 1-12 which disclose that the sensor may detect the leading edge and trailing edge of a sheet of media. The dependent claims also recite that the feeding apparatus may comprise a feed roller. Support can be found at page 5, line 17 to page 7 line 25 which, among other things, disclose that media is fed by rollers through a feed path. Accordingly, no new matter is believed entered by way of dependent claim 10-13.

Dependent claim 15-18 scope independent claim 14 in a manner similar to dependent claims 10-13. Accordingly, for the reasons above no new matter is believed entered by dependent claims 15-18.

As noted above, in the Office Action of March 28, 2005 the Examiner indicated that dependent claims 4 and 8 were allowable provided said claims were rewritten into independent form and to overcome the then outstanding rejections under 35 USC § 112, 2nd paragraph. Applicant appreciates this indication of allowable subject matter.

Dependent claim 4 had recited that the EDPA subsequently would resume media fed by the first media feed apparatus so as to continue imaging of media at said first media apparatus. Applicant notes that new independent claim 9 incorporates this feature that was considered allowable by the Examiner. That is, independent claim 9 recites that the EDPA restarts feeding of media after media has been sensed by said second media sensor.

Similarly, independent claim 14 recites that the EPDA terminates feeding in said first media feed apparatus, while said second feed apparatus continues to feed, when the length of time said first sheet of media is sensed by said first sensor exceeds said predetermined time period and the restart of feeding of media after said first sheet of media has been sensed by said second media sensor. Accordingly, it is believed that independent claim 14 incorporates those features that were considered allowable by the Examiner.

Finally, the Examiner raised some concerns that the body of now canceled claim 1 did not recite any structure for separating double fed media. It is believed that this is now addressed with respect to the feature in claim 9 which recites that the EDPA activates said clutch to terminate feeding in said first media feed apparatus while said second feed apparatus continues to feed. The termination of feeding at the first media feed apparatus by the EDPA, while the second feed apparatus continues to feed, therefore recites a structure that may separate double fed media. Similarly, in claim 14, the EDPA terminates feeding in the first media apparatus while the second feed apparatus continues to feed. Again, this would therefore provide a structure that may separate double fed media.

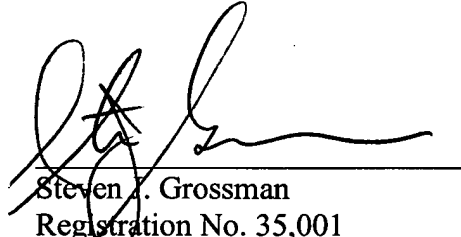
In consideration of the amendments to the claims and the remarks hereinabove, Applicant respectfully submits that all claims currently pending in the application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Allowance at an early date is respectfully solicited.

In the event there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge them (or credit any overpayment) to our Deposit Account No. 12-1213.

In the event the Examiner deems personal contact desirable in disposition of this

application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney at (603) 668-6560.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on June 28, 2005, at Manchester, N.H.

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